

Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

October 2004

Editor, Bill Carr (Virginia Beach)

A Message from our President, Velera Gammons....



The start of every new school year holds its own surprises, both good and bad, for those of us who are involved with the transportation of students. It seems our passengers get younger, the programs more diverse, and the responsibility for the safe transportation for this "precious cargo" gets greater and more complex. I know this year has been extremely difficult for our local division because of the consolidation of schools that was implemented this year. No matter what the difficulties are there is always a sense of accomplishment when, after a few days, things settle down and those yellow school buses fall into a routine that gets the job done. I hope you all are at that point and will have a very successful year.

The VAPT board and committee chairs met on Thursday, September 23, 2004, to review the conference evaluation results, appoint new committee chairs, and to start planning future conferences. Preparations are in place to make the 2005 conference informative and a big help to pupil transportation professionals.

October 17 – 23, 2004 is "National School Bus Safety Week" and VAPT is awaiting a proclamation by Governor Mark R. Warner. Dr. JoLynne S. DeMary, Superintendent of Public Instruction, backs this effort. The proclamation demonstrates support for Virginia's pupil transportation professionals in their efforts to make all citizens aware of the need for school bus safety in Virginia.

The 2004-2005 Pupil Transportation in Virginia Calendar includes winning posters from the School Bus Safety Poster contest. The schedules for regional meetings, VAPT meetings, holidays, etc. are included. Calendars were provided to schools throughout Virginia for displaying in school offices to help to remind children, their parents, and school personnel aware of the need for school bus safety. A note of appreciation is extended to June Eanes and her staff for coordinating the mailing of the calendar to all school divisions. My calendar is hanging proudly in my office to help remind drivers of the great responsibility they have daily as they transport children in their school buses. It helps to keep me focused, as well.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President for the 2004-2005 school year and please let me know if I, or VAPT, can be of assistance to you or your school division.

VAPT website: www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Fiance/VAPT

[News from the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services \(NASDPTS\)](#)

On September 14, 2004, the National Transportation Safety Board added Improvement of School Bus/Grade Crossing Safety to its "most Wanted List of Safety Improvements by States."

The Safety Board believes that elevating its 2001 Safety Recommendations on this subject to the "Most Wanted" list will help motivate states to make the recommended changes. Currently, only 16 states have completed acceptable actions, according to the Safety Board.

Complete information can be found on the Safety Board's website – www.nts.gov.

[Reducing the Illegal Passing of School Buses](#)

Check out the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at NHTSA.dot.gov.

Click on School Buses

Click on General Information

Click on Illegal Passing: The Problem (posted 5/9/02)

[NHTSA issues amendments to FMVSS No. 403 & 404 – Wheelchair lifts](#)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has issued a response to a number of Petitions for Reconsideration it received after issuing its Final Rule concerning Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 403 and 404, which deal with wheelchair lift systems.

S4.1.1 of FMVSS No. 404 requires that lift-equipped school buses must be equipped with a lift certified to all applicable public use lift requirements set forth in FMVSS No. 403. Since lifts on these vehicles will generally be subject to more stress and cyclic Loads and will be used by more and varied populations, more requirements as to platform size, control, and handrails, NHTSA believes these requirements are appropriate.

In the response to the Petitions for Reconsideration that was published in the Federal Register on October 1, 2004, NHTSA made some important changes to the FMVSSs. These FMVSSs apply to the wheelchair lift manufacturer and the vehicle manufacturer.

[Changes in Pupil Transportation Management:](#)

Amelia Co - Tom Holmes
Bland Co – Sandy Harman
Bristol Cty – Danny Hunt
Buchanan Co - Robert Rife
Caroline Co – J. D. Satterwhite
Charlotte Co – Bill Mayhew
King George Co – Ray Newton
Lee County – Wayne Anderson
Prince George Co – Ron Rhodes

Staunton - Tammy Johnson
West Point – Juanita Cawley

*Members, please let me know if
you are aware of any other
supervisory changes.
Thanks.
Editor*

**NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS
SAFETY WEEK**

October 17 - 23, 2004

Theme: " Shhh Railroad Crossing"

2004 Pupil Transportation Conference in pictures!



Barbara Scott (Campbell County) Secretary



Willie Smith (Albemarle Co).
Treasurer



Breakout Session



Buddy Nelson (Chesapeake) –
Position Paper Chairman in
Vendors Display Area



Business Session



Breakout Session



Gail Turner (Virginia Beach)
Conference Registration



June Eanes (DOE) Vice
President



Sharon Utley, Cathy Kitchen,
and Alice Matthews



Gary Griesser - Keynote
Speaker



Fred Rankin (Culpeper Co) and
Mitzi Crosier (Hanover Co)
VAPT Membership



Alice Matthews (DOE) and
James Lash (York Co) -
Breakout Session



Kermit Shaffer (Spotsylvania Co) – Region 3 Director



Jim Turner and Larry Keech, VAPT shirt salesmen



Barbara Goodman (Chesterfield Co). – Immediate Past President



Virginia State Trooper, Gene Ayers - Speaker



Gail Patterson (Hanover Co)



Breakout Session



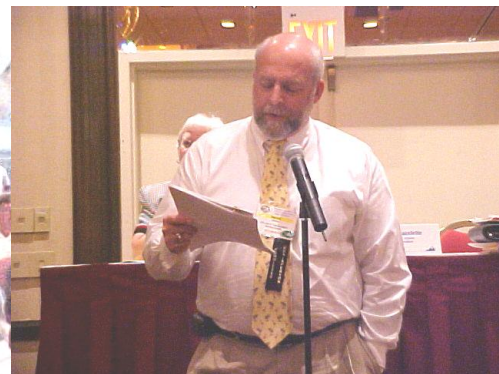
Jim Ransom (Petersburg)
Region 1 Director



John Hazelette (Norfolk) Hall of
Fame Chairman



Folks enjoying the VAPT
sponsored lunch



Harold Grimes (Henrico Co)
Legislative Co-Chairman



Mike Puckett (Russell Co)
Legislative Co-Chairman in
Vendor Display Area



Fred Valentine, Harold Grimes,
and Gary Griesser –
Vendor Display Area

That's all Folks!

Picture This

If you have pictures taken at the conference or other pertinent events this year that may be of interest and could be included in a future newsletter, please email them to me at bcarr@vbschools.com.

Thanks –

Bill, Editor

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SCHOOL BUS ROAD-E-O WINNERS

Conventional Category



First Place: Russell Altizer,
Montgomery County

Second Place: Corey Lampart,
Roanoke County

Third Place: Candy Murphy,
Clarke County

Transit Category



First Place: Josha Simpkins,
Montgomery County

Second Place: Leslie Brady,
Williamsburg-James City
County

Third Place: Kenneth Arthors,
Buena Vista

[News from Montgomery
County...](#)



Rebecca Mummau,
Montgomery County and
Region 6 Director

Montgomery County has been recognized at the state and national levels for School Bus Safety competitions (also known as a School Bus Road-e-o) for several years. To those of you

not familiar with this competition, during the spring of each year Montgomery County conducts a road-e-o and the winner competes in the region 6 road-e-o with neighboring school divisions. The winner of the region 6 road-e-o represents the region at the state competition held in conjunction with the annual pupil transportation conference. The first and second place winners at the state competition are eligible to represent Virginia at the national competition.

Russell Altizer has driven for Montgomery County Public Schools for the last 25 years and has been participating in school bus safety competitions for many years and has won at the local level every year since 1992. Russell placed second in the state competition for the last five years and this past June won first place in the state at the VAPT/DOE Pupil Transportation Conference in Richmond. He represented Virginia at national competitions in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York, and this year in Minneapolis. Russell placed fifth out of 44 drivers this year in the conventional school bus competition. Congratulations go to Russell for his accomplishments at all levels of road-e-o competition!

Josh Simpkins, a fifteen-year driver for Montgomery County, won the transit school bus category road-e-o making him the first driver to win in the

transit category in the annual state road-e-o (School Bus Safety Competition)! Josh represented our state at the national competition in Minneapolis for the transit school bus category and brought home silver (second place) out of 41 drivers. That's quite an achievement and our congratulations to Josh!!!

Well, that's Montgomery County's story. They made us proud this year at the national competitions! Thanks!!!!

[VAPT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2004-2005](#)

Officers/Executive Board

President: Velera Gammons
(Henry County)
vgammons@henrycountyschools.k12.va.us

President Elect: June Eanes
(Department of Education)
Jeanes@mail.vak12ed.edu

Treasurer: Willie Smith
(Albemarle County)
smith@albemarle.org

Secretary: Barbara Scott
(Campbell County)

bscott@campbell.k12.va.us

Immediate Past President:
Barbara Goodman (Chesterfield County)

Barbara_goodman@ccpsnet.net

Regional Directors

Region One – Jim Ransom
(Petersburg)
jransom@ppsk12.com

Region Two – Steve Washington
(Hampton)
swashington@sbo.hampton.k12.va.us

Region Three – Kermit Shaffer
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Region Four – Jim Day
(Manassas)
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Region Five – Mary Eppard
(Greene County)
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Region Six – Rebecca Mummau
(Montgomery County)
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Region Seven – Tom Williams
(Washington County)
tom@wcs.k12.va.us

Region Eight – Dwight Elam
(Mecklenburg County)
delam@meck.k12.va.us

Standing Committee Chairpersons/Co-Chairpersons

Audit – Mitzi Crosier (Hanover County) mcrosier@hcps.us

Conference – June Eanes (DOE) jeans@mail.vak12ed.edu and
Barbara Goodman (Chesterfield County)

Barbara_goodman@ccpsnet.net

Constitution/Bylaws – Tim Parker (Fairfax County)
tparker@fcps.edu

Legislative – Harold Grimes (Henrico Co) hgrimes@henrico.k12.va.us and
Mike Puckett (Russell Co) mpuckett@russell.k12.va.us

Membership – Mitzi Crosier (Hanover County)
mcrosier@hcps.us

Nominating – Dennis Lewis
(Chesterfield County)
dklewis@chesterfield.k12.va.us

Resolution – Michael Ashby
(King William County)
mashby@kwcps.k12.va.us

Scholarship – David Pace
(Virginia Beach)
dpace@vbschools.com

Special Committee Chairpersons

Budget – June Eanes (DOE)
jeans@mail.vak12ed.edu

Barbara Goodman (Chesterfield County)

Barbara_goodman@ccpsnet.net

John Hazelette (Norfolk)

jhazelet@nps.k12.va.us

Conference Site – John

Hazelette (Norfolk)

jhazelet@nps.k12.va.us and Fred
Valentine (Hanover County –
retired)

Hall of Fame – John Hazelette
(Norfolk) jhazelet@nps.k12.va.us

Historian – Dwight Elam
(Mecklenburg County)

delam@meck.k12.va.us

Newsletter – Bill Carr (Virginia
Beach) bcarr@vbschools.com

Position Papers – Buddy Nelson
(Chesapeake)

nelsoblo@cps.k12.va.us

School Bus Safety Posters -
Margaret Rayner (Hopewell)

mrayner@hopewell.k12.va.us

School Bus Road-e-o – Sharon
Utle (Chesterfield County)

Web Site – Tim Parker (Fairfax
County) tparker@fcps.edu and

Bianca Rohland (Stafford County)
rohlandbc@staffordschools.net

VAPT History

1978 – It was a Very Good Year!

The Second Annual VAPT Conference was held at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach on October 29-31, 1978. The usefulness of school bus stop arms was discussed and research information was presented as to the effectiveness of the stop arm. No, stop arms didn't just appear on Virginia's school buses one day. It took the efforts of many VAPT members and state officials to identify the need and funding required.

Officers:

President: Don Travitz (Chesapeake)
President Elect: Bob Wilson (Washington County)
Secretary: Roy Hopkins (Louisa County)
Treasurer: Jack Jones (Richmond City)

Directors:

Abraham Bushrod, Jr. (King George County)
Bob Devers (Loudoun County)
Richard Queensbury (Montgomery County)
Brad Scherr (Suffolk)

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EPA Announces New Video on School Bus Idling Reduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus USA partnership has announced the availability of a new, free video to educate school bus drivers, fleet operators, and school officials about the benefits of reduced idling in school bus operations.

The video and supporting publications are available free from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP). Phone orders can be placed by calling (800) 490-9198 or (513) 489-8190. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (EST). After hours you may leave a voice mail order. The web address for information and links for ordering is www.epa.gov/ncepihom/ordering.htm. You may also Email ncepimal@one.net to request publications. The name of the video is "Reducing School Bus Idling: The Key to a Healthier Ride." The document number is EPA 420-V-04-01.

*Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could.
Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as
you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too
high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)*